

WEA

4. Causing weariness; tirefome.
Their gates to all were open evermore
That by the *weary* way were travelling,
And one fat waiting ever them before
To call in comers by that needy were and poor. *Fa. Queen.*
The *weariest* and most loathed life
That age, ach, penury, imprisonment,
Can lay on nature, is a paradise
To what we fear of death. *Shakespeare.*
Put on what *weary* negligence you please,
You and your fellows; I'd have it come to question. *Shak.*
WEASEL. *n. f.* [perel, Saxon; *wesol*, Dutch; *mysfel*, Latin.]
A small animal that eats corn and kills mice.
Ready in gybes, quick-answer'd, faucy, and
As quarrelsome as the *weasel*. *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*
A *weasel* once made shift to sink
In a corn loft through a chink. *Pope.*
WE'ASND. *n. f.* [pajen, Saxon.] This word is very variously
written; but this orthography is nearest to the original word.
The windpipe; the passage through which the breath is drawn
and emitted.
Marry Diggon, what should him affray,
To take his own where-ever it lay;
For had his *weasand* been a little wider,
He would have devoured both hider and shidder. *Spenser.*
Cut his *weasand* with thy knife. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*
Matter to be discharged by expectoration must pass into
the lungs, then into the aspera arteria, or *weasand*, and
from thence be coughed up and spit out by the mouth. *Wifem.*
The shaft that slightly was impress'd,
Now from his heavy fall with weight increas'd,
Drove through his neck afant; he spurns the ground,
And the soul issues through the *weasand's* wound. *Dryden.*
The unerring steel descend'd while he spoke,
Pierc'd his wide mouth, and through his *weasand* broke. *Dryden.*
WEATHER. *n. f.* [peben, Saxon.]
1. State of air, respecting either cold or heat, wet or driness.
Who's there, besides foul *weather*?—One mended like the
weather, most unquietly. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
I am far better born than is the king;
But I must make fair *weather* yet a while,
Till Henry be more weak and I more strong. *Shakespeare.*
Men must content themselves to travel in all *weathers*, and
through all difficulties. *L'Estrange.*
The sun
Foretells the change of *weather* in the skies,
Through mists he shoots his fullen beams,
Suspect a drizzling day. *Dryden.*
2. The change of the state of the air.
It is a reverend thing to see an ancient castle not in decay;
how much more to behold an ancient family, which have stood
against the waves and *weathers* of time? *Bacon.*
3. Tempest; storm.
What gusts of *weather* from that gathering cloud,
My thoughts preface. *Dryden's Virgil.*
To **WEATHER.** *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To expose to the air.
He perch'd on some branch thereby,
To *weather* him and his moist wings to dry. *Spenser.*
Mustard-seed gather for being too ripe,
And *weather* it wel, yer ye give it a stripe. *Tusser.*
2. To pass with difficulty.
He *weather'd* fell Charibdis; but ere long,
The skies were darkened, and the tempests strong. *Garth.*
Could they *weather* and stand the shock of an eternal dura-
tion, and yet be at any time subject to a dissolution. *Hale.*
3. To **WEATHER** a point. To gain a point against the wind;
to accomplish against opposition.
We have been tugging a great while against the stream, and
have almost *weather'd* our point; a stretch or two more will
do the work. *Addison.*
4. To **WEATHER** out. To endure.
When we have pass'd these gloomy hours,
And *weather'd* out the storm that beats upon us. *Addison.*
WEATHERBEATEN. *adj.* Harassed and seasoned by hard *wea-*
ther.
They perceived an aged man and a young, both poorly ar-
rayed, extremely *weatherbeaten*; the old man blind, the young
man leading him. *Sidney.*
She enjoys sure peace for evermore,
As *weatherbeaten* ship arrived on happy shore. *Fairy Queen.*
Thrice from the banks of Wye,
And sandy bottom'd Severn, have I sent
Him bootless home, and *weatherbeaten* back. *Shak. H. IV.*
I hope when you know the worst, you will at once leap
into the river, and swim through handomely, and not *wea-*
therbeaten with the divers blasts of irresolution, stand shivering
upon the brink. *Suckling.*
A *weatherbeaten* vessel holds
Gladly the port. *Milton.*

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- Dido received his *weatherbeaten* troops. *Dryden's Virgil.*
The old *weatherbeaten* soldier carries in his hand the Roman
eagle. *Addison.*
WEATHERBOARD, or *Weatherbow.* *n. f.* In the sea language,
that side of a ship that is to the windward. *Diet.*
WEATHERCOCK. *n. f.* [*weather* and *cock*.]
1. An artificial cock set on the top of a spire, which by turn-
ing shows the point from which the wind blows.
But alas! the sun keeps his light, though thy faith be dark-
ened; the rocks stand still, though thou change like a *weather-*
cock. *Sidney.*
A kingfisher hanged by the bill, converting the breast to
that point of the horizon from whence the wind doth blow,
is a very strange introducing of natural *weathercocks*. *Brown.*
2. Any thing fickle and inconstant.
Where had you this pretty *weathercock*?—I cannot tell
what his name is my husband had him of. *Shakespeare.*
He break my promise and abolve my vow!
The word which I have given shall stand like fate,
Not like the king's that *weathercock* of state. *Dryden.*
WEATHERDRIVEN. *part.* Forced by storms or contrary winds.
Philip, during his voyage towards Spain, was *weather-*
driven into Weymouth. *Carver's Survey of Cornwall.*
WEATHERGAUGE. *n. f.* [*weather* and *gauge*.] Any thing that
shews the *weather*.
To vere and tack, and steer a cause,
Against the *weathergauge* of laws. *Hudibras.*
WEATHERGLASS. *n. f.* [*weather* and *glass*.] A barometer.
As in some *weatherglass* my love I hold,
Which falls or rises with the heat or cold,
I will be constant yet. *Dryden.*
John's temper depended very much upon the air; his spi-
rits rose and fell with the *weatherglass*. *Arbutnot.*
We shall hardly wish for a perpetual equinox to have the
charges of *weatherglasses*; for the two equinoxes of our year
are the most windy and tempestuous. *Bentley's Sermons.*
WEATHERGY. *n. f.* [*weather* and *gy*.] A star-gazer; an
astrologer; one that foretells the *weather*.
And sooner may a gulling *weathergy*,
By drawing forth heav'n's scheme tell certainly,
What fashion'd hats or ruffs, or suits next year,
Our giddy-headed antick youth will wear. *Denne.*
WEATHERWISE. *adj.* [*weather* and *wise*.] Skillful in foretel-
ling the *weather*.
WEATHERWISER. *n. f.* [*weather* and *wise*, Dutch; to show.]
Any thing that foretells the *weather*.
Most vegetables expand their flowers and down in warm
sun shiny *weather*, and again close them toward the evening,
or in rain, as is in the flowers of pimpernel, the opening
and shutting of which are the countryman's *weatherwiser*.
Derham's Physico-Theology.
To **WEAVE.** *v. a.* Preterite *wove*, *woven*, *part. pass. woven*,
woven; [pagan, Saxon; *woven*, Dutch.]
1. To form by texture; to form by inserting one part of the
materials within another.
Here in her hairs
The painter plays the spider, and hath *woven*
A golden mesh to intrap the hearts of men,
Faster than gnats in cobwebs. *Shakespeare.*
The women *wove* hangings for the grove. *2 Kings xxiii. 7.*
White seem'd her robes, yet *woven* so they were,
As snow and gold together had been wrought. *Dryden.*
These purple vests were *woven* by Dardan dames. *Dryden.*
Dan Pope for thy misfortune griev'd,
With kind concern and skill has *woven* d
A silken web; and ne'er shall fade
Its colours; gently has he laid
The mantle o'er thy sad distress:
And Venus shall the texture bless. *Prior.*
2. To unite by intermixture.
When religion was *woven* into the civil government, and
flourished under the protection of the emperors, mens thoughts
and discourses were full of secular affairs; but in the three first
centuries of christianity, men who embraced this religion
had given up all their interests in this world, and lived in a
perpetual preparation for the next. *Addison.*
3. To interpose; to insert.
The duke be here to-night! the better! best!
This *woven* itself perforce into my business. *Shakespeare.*
To **WEAVE.** *v. n.* To work with a loom.
WEAVER. *n. f.* [from *wave*.] One who makes threads into
cloth.
Upon these taxations,
The clothiers all not able to maintain,
The many to them longing, have put off
The spinners, carders, fullers, *weavers*. *Shak. Hen. VIII.*
My days are swifter than a *weaver's* shuttle, and are spent
without hope. *Joh. vii. 6.*
The

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- The *wearer* may cast religion upon what loom he please. *How.*
Her flag aloft spreads rustling to the wind,
And sanguine streamers seem the flood to fire:
The *wearer* charm'd with what his loom design'd,
Goes on to see, and knows not to retire. *Dryden.*
WEAVERFISH. *n. f.* [*araneus piscis*, Latin.] A fish. *Addison.*
WEB. *n. f.* [pebba, Saxon.]
1. Texture; any thing woven.
Penelope, for her Ulysses' sake,
Devis'd a *web* her woovers to deceive;
In which the work that she all day did make,
The fame at night she did again unweave. *Spenser.*
Spiders touch'd, seek their *web's* inmost part. *Davies.*
By day the *web* and loom,
And homely household talk shall be her doom. *Dryden.*
The fates, when they this happy *web* have spun,
Shall bless the sacred clue and bid it smoothly run. *Dryden.*
A silken *web*; and ne'er shall fade
Its colours. *Prior.*
2. Some part of a sword. Obsolete.
The sword, whereof the *web* was steel;
Pommel, rich stone; hilt, gold, approv'd by touch. *Fairf.*
3. A kind of dusky film that hinders the sight; suffusion.
This is the foul fibertigibbet; he gives the *web* and the pin,
quints the eye, and makes the hairlip. *Shakespeare.*
WEBBED. *adj.* [from *web*.] Joined by a film.
Such as are whole-footed, or whose toes are *webbed* toge-
ther, their legs are generally short, the most convenient size
for swimming. *Derham's Physico-Theology.*
WEBFOOTED. *adj.* [*web* and *foot*.] Palmipedous; having films
between the toes.
Webfooted fowls do not live constantly upon the land, nor
far to enter the water. *Ray on the Creation.*
WEBSTER. *n. f.* [pbyrne, Saxon; a woman-weaver.] A
weaver. Obsolete.
After local names, the most in number have been derived
from occupations; as Taylor, *Webster*, Wheeler. *Camden.*
To **WED.** *v. a.* [pagan, Saxon.]
1. To marry; to take for husband or wife.
If one by one you *wedded* all the world,
Or, from the all that are, took something good
To make a perfect woman; she you kill'd
Would be unparalleled. *Shakespeare.*
Never did thy beauty, since the day
I saw thee first, and *wedded* thee, adorn'd
With all perfection, so inflame my senses.
Cleo, blind to wit and worth,
Weds the rich dullness of some son of earth. *Pope.*
2. To join in marriage.
In Syracuse was I born, and *wed*
Unto a woman happy but for me. *Shakespeare.*
Then I shall be no more;
And Adam, *wedded* to another Eve,
Shall live with her. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
The woman in us still prosecutes a deceit like that begun
in the garden; and our understandings are *wedded* to an Eve,
as fatal as the mother of their miseries. *Glanville.*
3. To unite for ever.
Affliction is enamour'd of thy parts,
And thou art *wedded* to calamity. *Shakespeare's Rom. and Jul.*
4. To take for ever.
Though the principal men of the house of commons were
again elected to serve in this parliament, yet they were far
from *wedding* the war, or taking themselves to be concerned
to make good any declaration made by the former. *Clarendon.*
They positively and concern'dly *wedded* his cause. *Clarendon.*
5. To unite by love or fondness.
Men are *wedded* to their lusts, and resolv'd upon a wicked
course; and so it becomes their interest to wish there were no
God. *Tillotson's Sermons.*
To **WED.** *v. n.* To contract matrimony.
When I shall *wed*,
That lord whose hand shall take my plight, shall carry
Half my love with him, half my care and duty. *Shakespeare.*
To love, to *wed*,
For Hymen's rites, and for the marriage bed
You were ordain'd. *Suckling.*
Nor took I Guiscard, by blind fancy led,
Or hasty choice as many women *wed*;
But with deliberate care. *Dryden.*
WEDDING. *n. f.* [from *wed*.] Marriage; nuptials; the nup-
tial ceremony.
Come, away!
For you shall hence upon your wedding-day. *Shakespeare.*
I will dance and eat plums at your wedding. *Shakespeare.*
Let her beauty be her wedding dower;
For me and my possessions the effeminate not. *Shakespeare.*
When my son was enter'd into his wedding-chamber, he
fell down and died. *2 Esdr. x. 1.*
These three country bills agree, that each wedding produ-
ces four children. *Graunt's Bills of Mortality.*

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- His friends were invited to come and make merry with him;
and this was to be the wedding-feast. *L'Estrange.*
If she affirmed herself to be a virgin, she must on her wed-
ding-day, and in her wedding cloaths perform the ceremony
of going alone into the den, and stay an hour with the lion. *Swift.*
A woman seldom asks advice before she has bought her wed-
ding-cloaths. *Spectator.*
WEDGE. *n. f.* [*wegge*, Danish; *wegge*, Dutch.]
1. A body, which having a sharp edge, continually growing
thicker, is used to cleave timber; one of the mechanical powers.
A barbarous troop of clownish fone,
The honour of these noble bows down threw;
Under the *wedge* I heard the trunk to groan. *Spenser.*
The fifth mechanical faculty is the *wedge* used in the cleav-
ing of wood. *Wilkins's Mathematical Magick.*
He left his *wedge* within the cloven oak
To whet their courage. *Dryden's Æneid.*
The oak let many a heavy groan, when he was cleft with a
wedge of his own timber. *Arbutnot's Hist. of John Bull.*
2. A mass of metal.
As sparks from the anvil used to fly,
When heavy hammers on the *wedge* are swaid. *Fa. Qu.*
When I saw a goodly Babylonish garment, and a *wedge* of
gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them. *Josh. vii.*
3. Any thing in the form of a wedge.
In warlike multers they appear,
In rhombs and *wedges* and half-moons and wings. *Milton.*
To **WEDGE.** *v. a.* [from the noun.] To fasten with wedges;
to straiten with wedges; to cleave with wedges; to stop; to
obstruct.
My heart,
As *wedged* with a sigh would rive in twain,
Left Hector, or my father, should perceive me. *Shakespeare.*
Where have you been broiling?
—Among the crowd i' the abbey, where a finger
Could not be *wedg'd* in more. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
Your wit will not so soon out as another man's will; it is
strongly *wedged* up in a blockhead. *Shakespeare.*
Part
In common, rang'd in figure *wedge* their way;
Intelligent of seasons. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Sergeffus in the centaur, soon he pals'd,
Wedg'd in the rocky shoals and sticking fast. *Dryden.*
Wedge on the keenest scythes,
And give us steeds that snort against the foe. *A. Phillips.*
What impulse can be propagated from one particle, entomb'd
and *wedged* in the very center of the earth, to another in the
center of Saturn. *Bentley's Sermons.*
WEDLOCK. *n. f.* [pab and lac, Sax. marriage and gift.] Mar-
riage; matrimony.
She doth stray about
By holy crosses, where she kneels and prays
For happy *wedlock* hours. *Shakespeare.*
Sirrah, your brother is legitimate;
Your father's wife did after *wedlock* bear him:
And if she did play false, the fault was her's. *Shakespeare.*
Can *wedlock* know so great a curse,
As putting husbands out to nurse. *Cleaveland.*
He his happiest choice too late,
Shall meet already link'd, and *wedlock*-bound
To a fell adversary. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
May not a prison or a grave,
Like *wedlock*, honour's title have?
One thought the sex's prime felicity
Was from the bonds of *wedlock* to be free:
And uncontrol'd to give account to none. *Dryden.*
A man determin'd about the fiftieth year of his age to en-
ter upon *wedlock*. *Addison.*
WEDNESDAY. *n. f.* [poben-day, Saxon; *adensday*, Swedish;
wensday, Dutch; *wensday*, Islandick.] The fourth day of
the week, so named by the Gothick nations from *Woden* or
Odin.
Where is the honour of him that died on *wednesday*. *Shak.*
WEE. *adj.* [A Saxon word of the same root with *wearing*, Dutch;
wenig, German.] Little; small: whence the word *weasel* or
weasel is used for little; as a *weasel* face. In Scotland it de-
notes small or little; as *wee* ane, a little one, or child; a *wee*
bit, a little bit.
Does he not wear a great round beard, like a glover's pa-
ring knife?—No, forsooth; he hath but a little *wee* face with
a little yellow beard. *Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor.*
WEECHELM. *n. f.* [This is often written *witch elm*.] A spe-
cies of elm.
A cion of a *weechelm* grafted upon an ordinary elm, will put
forth leaves as broad as the brim of a hat. *Bacon.*
WEED. *n. f.* [pweb, Saxon, tares.]
1. An herb noxious or useless.
If he had an immoderate ambition; which is a *weed*, if it be
a *weed*, apt to grow in the best soils, it doth not appear that
it was in his nature. *Clarendon.*
He